



Regional Service Council Minutes

Region # 3

Meeting Date: April 18, 2011

Meeting Location: Juvenile Justice Center
1000 S. Michigan Street
South Bend, IN

Council Members Present: Fay Russell, Regional Manager; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Peggy Shively, Director Kosciusko County DCS; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County; William Horton, Elkhart County DCS; Teresa Zornig, St. Joseph County DCS; Judge Peter Nemeth, St. Joseph County Probate Court; Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko County

Council Members Absent: Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Sally Mahnken, CASA Kosciusko County; Magistrate Deborah Domine;

Others In Attendance: Rachel Tobin-Smith, SCAN; Aretha Green, Regional Coordinator; Janet Rathberger, DCS; Charles Whetstone, Director of Probation St. Joseph County; Todd Kelly, White's Residential; Marzy Bauer, YWCA; Bob Girard, Elkhart County; Polly Hoover, Oaklawn; Jan Lanning, Oaklawn; Rhonda Gipson-Willis, Children's Campus; Deb Johnson, Lifeline; Tony Jeffers, SAFY; Angie Moellering, Lutheran Social Services; Lisa Rommel, Lutheran Social Services; Mary Kowalski, FCC; Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; William Stephan, Bowen Center; Michael Marchi, Memorial; Polly Hoover, Oaklawn; Joanne Murillo, IJJTF; Jill Gardner, Whittington; Emily Robinson, Oaklawn; Bruce Greenburg, FCC; Sheila Carey Miles, Choices; Jill Stoltzfus, Oaklawn; Nancy Klupfenstein, KidsPeace; Shelly Ambroziak, Bonnie Strycker, Barbara Vernon, CAPS.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:01 am by Fay Russell.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes from 2-28-11 reviewed. No Corrections. Peggy Shively motioned approval of the minutes. Seconded by Michael Carroll. All in Favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.
3. Community Partners Update. Rachel Tobin-Smith reported that Community Partner Services dollars are at 64.05 % with a balance of \$229,152 remaining until the end of June. Community Partners enrolled 15 this month. March statistics reviewed. To date the program has touched 412 adults, and 709 children. Rachel reviewed program outcomes; 64% engagement, and Second HFPI down 2%, which will be addressed with providers. Local Prevention dollars are on track for spending. Prevention Priorities are handed out to members. The Prevention Priorities are the needs and recommended services that the local directors identified. Community Partners will issue RFPs for these services. Regional Service Council to approve prevention priorities.

Peggy Shively motioned to approve the list of prevention services. Tony Sommer seconded. All in favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstentions. Motion carried.

Kosciusko County's domestic violence program has not been able to spend all of the allocated funds, \$4,000. Their Parenting program could utilize the money if council would like to shift monies as needed.

Peggy Shively motioned to move monies as needed from Domestic Violence to Parenting. Michael Carroll seconded. All in favor. 0 Opposed. 0 Abstentions. Motion carried.

4. Service Update. Aretha Green, Regional Coordinator reported at the February meeting that contract award letters would be mailed in March and that has not happened. Award letters should be mailed this week. Aretha mentioned that the Regional Coordinators are charged with performing service standard achievement reviews. Quality service reviews, when the coordinators travel to the provider's office and review case documents to see how providers are standing in accord with the service standards. Aretha stated that providers are selected randomly. They are charged with performing 24 reviews a year. They will be doing the first wave of twelve reviews in May. Discussion followed, because the standards are different in Medicaid cases, questions arose whether we are pulling cases from the referral or from billing. It is possible to have referrals that are paid by Medicaid whether or not referred by Medicaid. Aretha will clarify how the reviews are pulled. Aretha stated that they are not reviewing Medicaid cases. The twelve reviews taking place in May will be based on the current service standards.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Joni emailed the budget to members last week and copies were made available. If anyone has questions they can email Joni at; Joni.Tusing@dcs.IN.gov

6. County Updates. Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County announced that Jamie Pippin has been promoted to Director of the Noble County DCS Office. His vacant supervisory position has been posted in the job bank. They are also hiring for a shared Attorney position for Elkhart/Kosciusko County and their fulltime Attorney has resigned so Elkhart will be looking at filling two positions.

Peggy Shively, Director Kosciusko County reported that they had one person leave whose position was not replaced. Last month Kosciusko County had 72 reports, almost double the norm.

Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County reported that Michael Kittrell has taken a position with the new institutional unit in Region 2. Kirt Hunsberger has been hired as institutional specialist for Region 3. Michael reported hiring a recent BSW graduate who will not have to go through the DCS Family Case Manager training due to the DCS training partnership. DCS/FCM training is now part of the curriculum in the BSW program.

Linda Cioch, Director Saint Joseph County reported Reagan Harding has been hired as an assessment supervisor filling the vacancy left by Terri Zornig. Betty Mydland no longer works for the department. Linda reported her team in working on permanency.

Fay Russell, Regional Manager reported work is beginning on the Biennial Strategic Plan for 2012 & 2013. The first workgroup meeting is Friday, May 13th, 1:30 p.m. at the local Elkhart DCS office. Local Office Directors, the Regional Financial Manager, Probation, Court, Foster Parents, CASA, and the 211 representative will be asked to participate

in the workgroup. A schedule for the rollout for the plan will be attached to the next meeting minutes.

Judge Nemeth stated that the Probation Department has a provider that did not receive notice for the contract period. Chuck Whetstone further explained that the provider wants to remain a provider for DCS and the Probation Department would like him to continue. Fay Russell reported that the provider was on the email list of providers notified of the contract period. The State is under no obligation to notify providers but the email was sent as a courtesy to providers and contract information was available on the DCS Internet. Fay stated that now we are in the position that we have other entities that were chosen for those same services, who did meet the timeline for response to the contract. Fay does not see how we could entertain opening up those contracts if we already have people that followed the rules, responded timely, and were selected for those same services.

Mary Kowalski had a question on the accepted rate, and the appeal process for a 10% increase. Fay further explained that the 10% increase would only apply if there were no entities that could provide the service at the standard rate.

William Horton moved to adjournment; Teresa Zornig seconded.

Next RSC Meeting - Monday, May 16th at 10:00a.m., Joy Rose Center, 1000 West Hively Avenue, Elkhart, IN